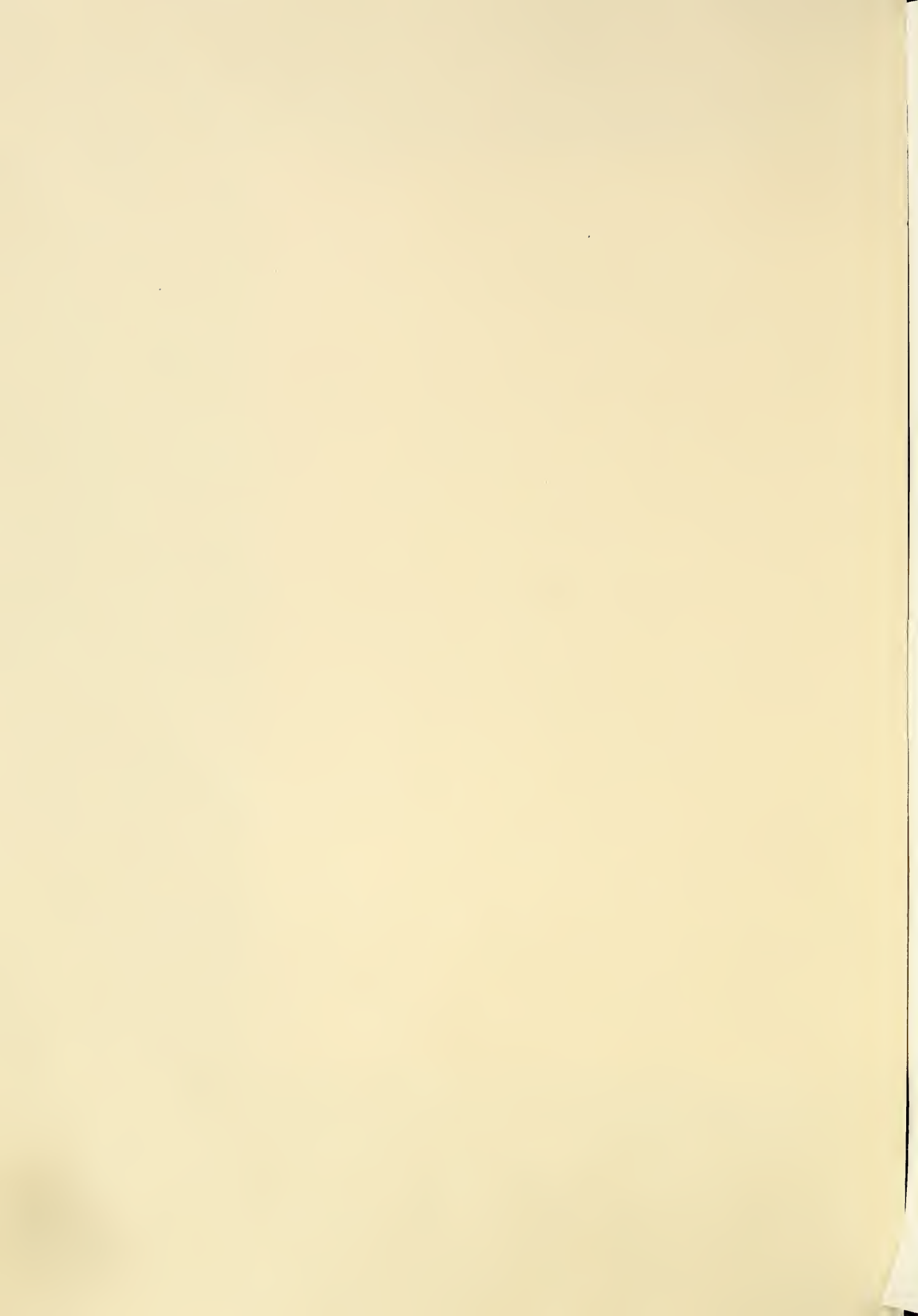


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# **Farm Broadcasters Letter**

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330

Letter No. 2490

Jan. 11, 1990

**1991 FARM PROGRAMS** -- Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has announced a series of farm program provisions for 1991 crops. The required acreage reduction a farmer must make in base acreage plantings to be eligible for supports on that program crop: wheat, 15 percent; corn, barley & grain sorghum, 7.5 percent; upland & extra-long staple cotton, 5 percent; and for oats, zero percent. There is no cross compliance. Farmers may elect to make acreage reduction cuts in one program crop to qualify for supports in that crop & pass up supports in another crop by planting his or her full crop base, or exceeding the base, in that program crop on the same farm. Contact: Robert Feist (202) 447-6789.

**SPECIAL PLANTINGS INTENTIONS SURVEY** -- USDA will conduct a special planting intentions survey the last two weeks of January & publish the results Feb. 11. Charles Caudill, administrator of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, says the report will include 1991 national level acreage intentions for corn, sorghum, soybeans, barley, durum wheat, other spring wheat, rice, cotton and sunflowers. The report will also show the proportion of farmers who intend to plant other oilseeds -- canola, rapeseed, safflower, flaxseed & mustard seed. Contact: Duane Jewell (202) 447-7017.

**IF YOU'VE GOT SOME WORNOUT HEAVY-DUTY RUBBER TIRES** you can't burn or bury, here's a solution: turn those tires into watering troughs for livestock. Herb Andrick, district conservationist with USDA's Soil Conservation Service, in Philippi, W.Va., is helping West Virginia farmers do that. In addition, some farmers may become eligible for the Agricultural Conservation Program by using these tires as "tire-troughs," says Andrick. These used tires are generally about six to eight feet in diameter & weigh about 1,000 pounds. Contact: Herb Andrick (304) 457-4517.

**RAINDROPS POINT FINGER AT POLLUTION** -- Each raindrop may not be unique like a snowflake, but it can be different enough to tell where it came from, says Harry B. Pionke, a USDA soil scientist. Pionke says differences in the weights of oxygen atoms in water molecules act as fingerprints for raindrops. "We are tracing the paths of raindrops through soil to groundwater and streams by comparing oxygen atoms in water samples," he says. Contact: Harry B. Pionke (814) 865-2048.

**COWS COULD HELP INFANTS** -- A USDA scientist has found a rare & often fatal genetic defect seen in human infants in dairy cattle. The discovery could bring scientists closer to developing gene therapies in an animal that might be used as a model to study the condition in humans, says Marcus E. Kehrli, Jr., a USDA veterinary medical officer. Kehrli discovered the defect, called leukocyte adhesion deficiency or LAD, in cattle. Human LAD was first identified by medical researchers in 1982. To date, 80 human cases have been confirmed. Contact: Marcus E. Kehrli (515) 239-8462.

**ORIENTAL PERSIMMONS HIGH IN VITAMIN C** -- Oriental persimmons have about three times as much vitamin C as citrus, says Jerry A. Payne, a USDA scientist. Payne says certain varieties of orange-red Oriental persimmons provide 218 milligrams of ascorbic acid per 100 grams of fruit, or up to 363 percent of the recommended daily intake of vitamin C. Citrus -- the best-known source of vitamin C -- normally contains 40 to 70 milligrams of ascorbic acid per 100 grams of fruit. Payne says we shouldn't confuse Oriental persimmons -- two to four inches around -- with the smaller, seedier American type that grows wild and is "puckery." Contact: Jerry A. Payne (912) 956-5656.

**1991 MILK SUPPORT PRICE UNCHANGED** -- Sec. Yeutter announced that the support price for milk will remain at \$10.10 per hundred-weight for 1991 for milk with a milkfat content of 3.67 percent -- the national average. The equivalent support price for 3.5 percent milkfat content is \$9.90 per hundredweight. Contact: Robert Feist (202) 447-6789.

**MILK INVENTORY STUDY** -- USDA has asked for public comments for a milk inventory management program which will be studied by the secretary of agriculture, as required by the recently-enacted farm bill. Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, said the secretary is required to submit a report before Aug. 1 on milk inventory management programs to the Committee on Agriculture of the U.S. House of Representatives & the U.S. Senate's Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Proposals should be sent, no later than Feb. 6, to Charles Shaw, Commodity Analysis Div., ASCS, USDA, PO Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206.

**MEAT & POULTRY RESIDUE QUESTIONS** -- USDA has just printed a consumer booklet about chemical residues in meat & poultry. It explains residues, illegal levels of residues, what the government does to protect consumers and what consumers can do to reduce exposure to residues. For a copy of "Questions and Answers About Chemical Residues," call Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445.

**NEW TEST DETECTS HARMFUL BACTERIUM** -- A USDA scientist is patenting a new test that detects & recovers harmful strains of a bacterium from food & water. *Yersinia enterocolitica*, a pathogen of growing concern to federal regulatory agencies, can reach infectious levels in milk, beef & other meat products within four days during refrigerated storage. Saumya Bhaduri, a USDA microbiologist, says his test used Congo red dye to detect the harmful strains. He says harmful bacteria can be collected from food, food processing equipment, water & sewer treatment facilities & then grown in a lab for identification & verification. Contact: Saumya Bhaduri (215) 233-6521.

**DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR PET BIRD REALLY CAME FROM?** Will it get sick & die? Will it spread disease? USDA is again warning the public & commercial buyers to be certain they don't buy smuggled birds. Smuggled birds have been responsible for outbreaks of Exotic Newcastle disease in the past. If you think a bird may have been smuggled into the U.S., don't buy it. How can you tell? Birds authorized for sale have a circular, stainless steel, USDA-approved leg-band, which is engraved with three letters & three numbers. Contact: Margaret Webb (301) 436-6573.



# FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

- AGRICULTURE USA #1753** -- What makes a great bottle of wine? On this edition of Agriculture USA, **Brenda Curtis** pays a visit to a local winemaker in Chautauqua County, New York, to find out just what goes into making a good wine. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)
- CONSUMER TIME #1234** -- Iron & OJ; fast food myths; some delicious rice recipes; window anti-cold retrofitting; lowering the thermostat. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)
- AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1742** -- USDA News Highlights; payment limitation changes; details on Soviet credit guarantees; genetically altered fish; U.S. wheat products popular in Japan. (Weekly reel of news features.)
- NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1402** -- Balanced diet vs. the RDA; avoid fad diets; maintaining ideal weight; Americans eat less fat; wasp bags bagworms. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)
- UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Fri., Jan. 18, livestock & poultry outlook, turkey outlook; Mon., Jan. 21, Holiday, Tues., Jan. 22, dairy outlook, U.S. ag trade update; Wed., Jan. 23, weekly weather & crop outlook, catfish report; Thurs., Jan. 24, oil crops outlook crop values; Fri., Jan. 25, livestock & poultry update, cattle on feed & livestock slaughter.

**DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**  
Material changed at 5 p.m., EST, each working day.

# FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE (Week of Jan. 10, 12 & 14, 1991)

- FEATURES --** DeBoria Janifer reports on winter care of plants & Will Pemble reports on breeding long-grain rice.
- ACTUALITIES --** F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, on the credit guarantees to the Soviet Union for ag products; USDA Chief Meteorologist **Norton Strommen** on the condition of California & Florida citrus crops & winter wheat; **Catherine Adams**, of USDA's Food Safety & Inspection Service, on upcoming HACCP workshops for meat & poultry inspection; Veterinarian **Keith Hand** on preventing exotic birds from being smuggled into the U.S.; USDA Economist **LeLand Southard** on the hogs & pigs inventory.
- UPCOMING FEATURES --** Deboria Janifer reports on the WIC program; **Lynn Wyvill** on home-based businesses & **Pat O'Leary** on the 1991 Farm Bill & the environment.

Available on Satellite Westar IV, Transponder 12D (Channel 23), audio 6.2 or 6.8:

THURSDAY . . . . .7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EST  
SATURDAY . . . . .10 - 10:45 a.m., EST  
MONDAY . . . . .8 - 8:45 a.m., EST

## OFFMIKE

**IMPACT OF FLOODING...**will not be apparent until Spring thaw, says Skip Davis (WASK, Lafayette, Ind.). He says wheat is in its dormant stage and can withstand being covered by water for longer periods. Any erosion will become apparent as the water recedes. Most damage has been to homes and personal items. Skip says an \$8.5 million confined-hog-operation is planned for his area and awaits approval from the state environmental management agency. The station is changing owners, and Skip predicts 1991 will be better than 1990.

**TRANSPORTATION...**is a real problem, says Max Stewart (WIBV, Belleville, Ill.). Interstate highways are open but producers can't get to them, preventing grain from moving to market. A series of storms dropped freezing rain and snow bringing movement to a halt. Weight doesn't do much good under those conditions -- wheels of big tractors spin as easily as lighter ones. Max says it took ten minutes to read the list of closed schools.

### ***Farm Broadcasters Letter***



Office of Public Affairs  
Radio-TV Division  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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**COLD TEMPERATURES...**and icy conditions have increased the concern of Oklahoma cattle producers, says Cyndi Young (Oklahoma Agrinet, Oklahoma City). Producers are experiencing weight gain performance problems and freezing rain has increased the importance of providing shelter. Cyndi is busy covering meetings -- the Oklahoma Conservation Committee was on her schedule when we talked -- and filling in for NAFB president Ron Hays, who is traveling more these days.

**CLOSED...**Georgia Agrinews, Moultrie. Everett Griner says he plans to produce daily farm programs for a local station.

**NEW VOICE...**at WPRC, Lincoln, Ill., is Tom Gibson formerly with WIAI, Danville, Ill.

**NEW MEMBER...**of Morning Agriculture Report, Indianapolis, Ind., is Matt Fleck, former farm director at WTHI-TV, Terre Haute, Ind.

**VIC POWELL**  
Chief, Radio & TV Division